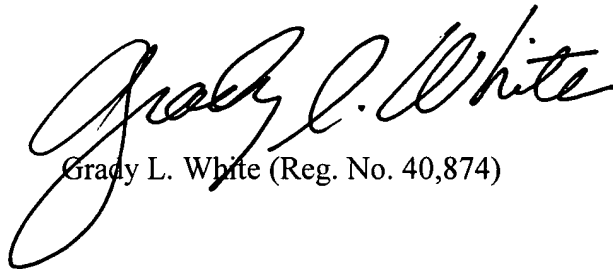


These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. A separate sheet is attached to reflect the revisions to page 1, paragraph 1, of the specification.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Grady L. White (Reg. No. 40,874)

Date: May 24, 2001

COVINGTON & BURLING
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2401
(202) 662-6000

**Mark-Up Sheet Reflecting Amendments to the Specification for
Continuation of Application No. 09/288,622, filed May 24, 2001**

[In connection with this application, priority is claimed] The present application is a continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/288,622, filed April 9, 1999, which claims priority to the following provisional applications: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NETWORK CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT, U.S. Serial No. 60/121,425, filed February 23, 1999, and SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NETWORK MANAGEMENT, U.S. Serial No. 60/121,429, filed February 23, 1999.--